

Subject: Enhanced DFIRM Database Specifications

Thank you for your interest and participation in the review process for FEMA's Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Database products. These products are one of the cornerstones of FEMA's Map Modernization initiative. Your input into the development of our new mapping products is important to us, and we appreciate your interest in their development.

Standard DFIRM Database

FEMA previously released the design of the Standard DFIRM Database - the relational database and GIS mapping data that make up a current official DFIRM. The Standard DFIRM Database contains the necessary Geographic Information System (GIS) spatial data elements used to create the DFIRM paper map so that users may identify Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) and Special Flood Hazard Areas on a community or countywide basis. The data contents and requirements of the Standard DFIRM Database are defined in Appendix L of FEMA's *Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners*, which can be downloaded at http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/gs_main.htm.

Draft Enhanced DFIRM Database

A draft design of the Enhanced DFIRM Database has been developed and is provided for public review and comment. In addition to all of the elements in the Standard DFIRM Database, the Enhanced version contains pertinent back-up engineering data needed by FEMA mapping partners for flood studies, map revisions, or map maintenance. It includes information needed for core NFIP functions such as Mapping Coordination Contractor (MCC) review, insurance rating, and compliance monitoring. It includes sufficient data to allow users to reproduce the flood profile and water surfaces, including hydrologic and hydraulic model input and output files. Additionally, it stores original products and intermediate products of high value and/or wide applicability. It does not include all intermediate data developed in the course of conducting the flood study. Subsequent versions of the Enhanced DFIRM Database may contain additional information, depending on the needs of States and communities producing DFIRM products.

Review Comments

The Draft Enhanced DFIRM Database design is being circulated for review to FEMA's customers, partners, and contractors. It will be implemented based on the feedback from reviewers and lessons learned from prototyping.

You can e-mail your comments on the Enhanced DFIRM Database to dfirmdatabase@dewberry.com or provide them by facsimile to (703) 206-0845. If you provide comments via facsimile, please include "DFIRM Database Review" on your cover sheet.

If possible, we would be interested in specific recommendations and/or explanations in your review comments. Additionally, we would be interested in your thoughts on the potential cost implications of implementing the Enhanced DFIRM Database.

Please provide your comments by August 15, 2002.

The following documents can be found in electronic format on FEMA's web site at the following address: http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/dfm_eddb.htm.

1. [Draft specifications for the Enhanced DFIRM Database](#).
2. [Table Relationship Diagram\(s\) of the Draft Enhanced DFIRM Database](#).
3. [Draft Enhanced DFIRM Database, submitted version](#) (zipped Access database including table definition).

Again, we thank you for your interest and participation in the development of our new Enhanced DFIRM Database product. If you have any questions regarding this matter you can contact the [FEMA Map Assistance Center at 1-877-FEMA MAP](#).